

The Maoris of the Ikaroa and South Island districts have shown a lively interest in the facilities afforded by the provisions of the Native housing legislation. Up to the 31st March, 1939, 465 applications had been received for loans either for the purpose of erecting new houses or reconditioning existing dwellings. At the same date 117 loans had been granted to applicants by the Board of Native Affairs, while a large number was still under investigation. The number of new houses erected is twenty-six, while eight have been purchased and eleven have been reconditioned.

Many Maoris have availed themselves of the provisions of section 20 of the Native Housing Amendment Act, 1938, and elders and relatives have vested building sections in them for the purpose of providing sites for houses. The Maoris who have been provided with new dwellings have shown unmistakable appreciation of their improved living-accommodation. The Judge has taken every opportunity of impressing upon occupants the necessity for keeping their houses in good order both inside and out, and householders are urged and encouraged to lay out flower-gardens and shrubberies of Native trees surrounding the new dwellings. It is sincerely to be hoped that this advice will take root and flourish in due course.

The designs of some of the houses already erected are capable of some improvement, and changes are being made from time to time as experience dictates.

One of the matters calling for most urgent and unremitting attention is that of providing the Maori people with some economic background whereby they may find a means of obtaining self-respecting and self-supporting employment of some degree of security and permanency. The Judge and district officials are applying themselves assiduously to this task, and it is hoped that a fair measure of success will be attained in the near future. At the present time a number of suggestions are under consideration, and in due course recommendations will be made for the provision of the necessary financial assistance.

TABLE A.—NATIVE LAND COURT.

(a) RETURN OF BUSINESS AND FEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1939.

	Totals.		Tokerau.	Waikato-Maniapoto	Waia-riki.	Tairā-whiti.	Aotearoa.	Ikaroa.	South Island.
	1937-38.	1938-39.							
<i>Native Land Court.</i>									
Number of sittings ..	103	119	8	12	27	25	16	21	10
Number of cases notified ..	21,451	27,006	1,955	2,273	7,073	4,629	5,584	4,589	903
Number of cases for which orders were made	5,647	8,604	594	643	2,235	3,255	746	805	326
Number of cases dismissed ..	1,615	1,755	43	251	302	446	571	94	48
Number of cases adjourned <i>sine die</i>	14,198	17,521	1,318	1,261	4,546	1,910	4,267	3,690	529
Number of partitions made	400	471	14	49	180	180	20	24	4
Area affected (acres) ..	100,568	28,754	837	9,396	5,379	5,938	5,639	1,546	19
Number of investigations of title	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Area affected (acres) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of succession orders made	5,183	4,602	224	469	849	1,745	534	608	173
Number of other orders made	3,979	6,787	356	125	1,768	4,022	192	174	150
<i>Native Appellate Court.</i>									
Number of sittings ..	6	10	..	..	1	3	1	4	1
Number of cases notified ..	11	34	..	..	2	9	1	19	3
Native Land Court decisions varied	3	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Native Land Court decisions affirmed	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Native Land Court decisions referred back to Native Land Court	2	16	..	..	2	..	..	14	..
Native Land Court decisions annulled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appeals dismissed or withdrawn	2	7	..	..	..	5	..	2	..
Appeals adjourned <i>sine die</i> ..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Applications under section 257/31 ordered	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Applications under section 257/31 dismissed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Applications under section 257/31 adjourned <i>sine die</i>	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Court and Board fees collected	6,002	5,748	141	931	1,317	1,476	1,028	663	192